

NOTE.

THE OCCURRENCE OF THE LARVA OF A CESTODE WORM IN *POLITA ROGERSI*. (Read 10th March, 1916.)—In January, 1915, a specimen of *P. rogersi*, B. B. Woodw., was found near Radlett (Herts) which showed on dissection the presence of larvæ of some cestode worm in the lower part of the liver. The cysts, some twenty in number, seem to lie free in the cavities of the liver; they are about 0.4 mm. in diameter, with a pretty tough outer skin. On rupturing this, the scolex is delivered, showing a bilobed appearance, with the head sunk in a pit at one end. There are numerous calcareous bodies. The hooks are, as far as I can see, eighteen or twenty in number and about 0.05 mm. long. The other host of the parasite is presumably something which eats the snail; birds and voles suggest themselves. The foot and tissues of the snail had the peculiar pinkish appearance which is sometimes seen in *P. rogersi* (*Lancashire Naturalist*, vol. vii, 1914, p. 311). The eggs of the tapeworm can evidently pass uninjured through the masticatory apparatus of the snail, which affords further evidence that the radula is a prehensile rather than a grinding apparatus.

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P.S.—Since writing the above I have found apparently the same parasite in six out of ten specimens of *Polita cellaria* (the *scharffi* form) and in two of twenty-one *P. nitidula* collected in August at Sopwell Nunnery, near St. Albans. Mr. Bowell, who was with me, recollects that mouse faeces were abundant where the snails were. *P. rogersi* was not found. A large number of *Polita* have been examined from other localities in South Hertfordshire with negative results.